January 26, 1964

Miss Toni Strassman
116 E. 19th St.,
New York 3, N.Y.

Dear Miss Strassman,

There are several reasons why I didn't follow your suggestion and send just a brief outline of what I had in mind for the SST story. Were I an editor, and if I knew nothing of the subject, I'd be inclined to discount or disbelieve most of what would have been left unsubstantiated. Also, while I have had no experience with what the TV people like or want, I hope they might be interested in this subject and here, I believe, is at least enough to show them what is available. There is much more material I didn't use. I know of some appropriate footage CBS has, including what to me was a very interesting correlation between noise and health, taken by a New York doctor and his wife among African natives.

I do hope sending you a rough draft instead of a summary is not an imposition on your time or that of anyone to whom you might show it.

Several Congressmen are interested in this story and have asked for copies. My own Congressman and his wife have a special interest: their two little boys, three and five, have been badly frightened by some of these sonic booms. I believe this will eventually reach the Congressional Record and may very well figure in Congressional debates. This, especially with the clever Goebels-like campaign the FAA is now running in Oklahoma, will soon be a hot issue.

If our affairs go as scheduled, the last 1200 of our layers will leave here tomorrow, Wednesday I'll make my deliveries and if I have heard nothing about the transportation arrangements for our waterfowl gift to Ghana I'll be able to leave for New York Thursday morning. If I can come, I'll bring with me the rest of my research materials so that you or anyone else will have no doubts of accuracy or source.

To give you an idea of the kind of material available for illustrations, I am enclosing two poor photocopies from "Air Force and one of a newspaper story mentioning a coast-to-coast "40-mile wide sonic boom which broke windows from coast to coast." Among the other obvious ones are the Oklahoma airport damage mentioned in the draft (I almost used this for the lead), the people involved as they testified, the illustrations for Lundberg's article, etc. There are also drawings of the Concorde and the current TIME has outlines of three submissions by American manufacturers. If "expose" treatment is considered, I have everything quoted in my possession.

There are also a number of story ideas I'd like to discuss with you. I hope our complicated affairs permit the trip.

Sincerely yours,